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LETTER DATED 8 APRIL 1998 FROM THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to refer to Security Council resolution 1160 (1998) of 31 March 1998, in paragraph 14 of which the Council requested me to keep it regularly informed and to report on the situation in Kosovo and the implementation of the resolution no later than 30 days following the adoption of the resolution and every 30 days thereafter.

In this regard, you will recall that, on 10 March 1998, the Secretariat informed the members of the Council that the United Nations did not have a political presence in Kosovo that would enable it to provide first-hand information on the situation in the area. Such United Nations personnel as there is is devoted exclusively to humanitarian assistance. As there has been no change in this regard, the Secretariat is still not in a position to independently assess the situation on the ground and to report to the Council thereon.

By means of the present letter, I should therefore like to inform the Security Council that, in discharging this part of my mandate, as well as in assessing whether the Government of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia has complied in a constructive manner with conditions put forward by the Contact Group, I shall be relying exclusively on the information and assessments of the Contact Group, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) and the European Union, as foreseen in paragraph 16 of the above-mentioned resolution. To this end, I have already sent requests for their cooperation to the Coordinator of the Contact Group, to the Chairman-in-Office of OSCE and to the Presidency of the European Union.

I should be grateful if you would convey this information to the members of the Security Council.

(Signed) Kofi A. ANNAN

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